



A warm welcome from Nancy Morris, GSN PhD Program Director, to the first Annual GSN PhD Student Newsletter. *Congratulations* to our recent PhD nursing graduates!! Given the most unusual circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic we celebrated with a virtual graduation last Spring with Joanne Lewis, a PhD graduate, delivering an excellent student address to her fellow graduates, faculty, and all the friends and family in attendance.

Despite being remote, the excitement of the graduation was palpable, and we are all proud of the graduates accomplishments and look forward to hearing about their future successes. Current students are progressing through their program of study and this Fall we welcomed 5 new first year students and one transfer student who joined the 7 students beginning their 2nd year of coursework. This year we have 29 Nursing PhD students with 16 actively engaged in dissertation work many of whom had to revise recruitment plans and/or data collection to accommodate changes necessary because of the pandemic. These are disruptive times for many, GSN faculty are here, ready and willing to support each student with their efforts to achieve their educational goals.

The purpose of this newsletter is to highlight and recognize the accomplishments of GSN PhD students. We want to share their interests and the work they are engaged in to promote knowledge development in the discipline. We want to help connect and inspire each student with efforts to conduct science, answer questions, challenge current practices, and discover new knowledge, all to move the discipline forward.

Recent PhD Graduates and their Dissertation Topics



Cheryl Hersperger, PhD, RN
Dissertation: *"Paving the Way: A Grounded Theory of Discovery & Decision-Making for Persons Diagnosed with the CDH₁ Marker"*
December 2019

Joanne Lewis, PhD, RN, NP
Dissertation: *"A Video Intervention Targeting Opioid Disposal After General Surgery: A Feasibility Study"* May 2020



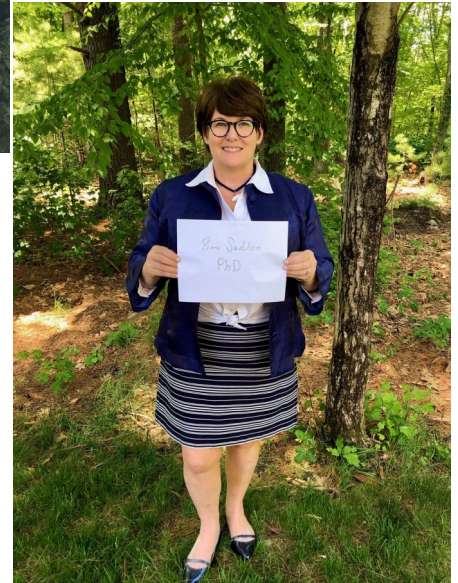
Tara Casamir, PhD, RN
Dissertation: *"Mete Tèt Nou Ansanm (Putting Our Heads Together): Global Health Capacity Building within Short-term Medical Missions."* May 2020

Meghan Picone, PhD, RN
Dissertation: *"Situation Awareness in LPNs, a Pilot Study."*
May 2020



**Cassandra Godzik, PhD, RN,
PMHNP**
Dissertation: *"Feasibility of an Online Cognitive Behavioral Therapy Program to Improve Insomnia, Mood, and Quality of Life in Bereaved Adults Age 55 and Older."*
May 2020

Penni Sadlon, PhD, RN
Dissertation: *"Together We Can Return to Balance" Eastern Woodlands Tribal Perspectives and Type 2 Diabetes: A Qualitative Study*
August 2020



After graduation

Cassie Godzik has been accepted into a multi-site postdoctoral two-year training program in geriatric mental health services research (T32 MH073553) consisting of a training collaboratory including Dartmouth College (Bartels, PI), Cornell University, University of Washington and the University of Michigan. The goal of the program is to train postdoctoral fellows for academic careers in geriatric mental health services research through an innovative, transdisciplinary, multi-site, collaborative approach. They will achieve this goal by providing each participant a two-year program consisting of: mentored geriatric mental health services research training; cross-site seminars and co-mentoring linked by web-based communication and archived curricula; and formal coursework at each site, including the opportunity for a Master's in Public Health or Master of Science in health services research.

Tara Casimir accepted an assistant professor position at the University of Southern Maine in Portland, Maine where she will teach nursing students and continue her interests in global health and nursing education

New experiences working with nurses of the future



Thin Aung had her first teaching position as a Clinical Instructor for the UMass GSN GEP Program Fall 2019

Jen DiBenedetto obtained teaching experience working as a Clinical Instructor for Anna Marie College

Melissa Dunn joined the Department of Nursing at Fitchburg State University in September of 2019

2020 1st year PhD students

Heather Kennedy
Shaun L'Esperance
William "Bill" Mar
Saisha Matias
Lauri Toohey



2020 2nd year PhD students

Bill O'Neil,
Jennifer Costa
Sarah Romain
Kelly Sudnick
Samantha Turner
Kimberly Mantlow
Alaina Valcourt
and , Angela Latter



Moving on to Dissertation Phase

Sandra Toffay
Heather Briere
Julia Patrick
Laura Curtis
Zareen Barry



Student Suggestions for Success



Laura Curtis offered these tips for fellow students: *We need to take care of ourselves, and each other; get sleep, and if you want to be a writer, write.*

Thin Aung suggests that everyone use endnote, be organized and make folders for each course so that it is easy for comp review

Scholarship - Expanding Horizons

Podium and Poster Presentations 2019-2020

Cornine, A. (2020). Reducing nursing student anxiety in the clinical setting: An integrative review. *Nursing Education Perspectives*. Doi: 10.1097/01.NEP. 0000000000000633

Cornine, A. (2019). "Reducing Nursing Student Anxiety in the Clinical Setting: An Integrative Review," A Poster Presentation at the 2019 Eastern Nursing Research Society Annual Scientific Sessions, Providence, RI April 3-5, 2019.

Cornine, A. (2019). "Student Interpersonal Connection in Nursing Education: A Concept Analysis," A Poster Presentation at the MA/RI League for Nursing Spring Conference

Curtis, L (2019). Strategies to support safety when working on a short-term forensic mental health/court evaluation unit. Presentation at Worcester Recovery Center and Hospital Professional Development Grand Rounds May 9, 2019.

Dunn, M. (2019). "Childhood Asthma and Social Disadvantage: Exploring the Contextual Influences Affecting Family Management." Poster presented at the *14th International Family Nursing Association Conference* in Washington, D.C., August 16-19, 2019.

Godzik, C. M. (2019). Intolerance of uncertainty in an anxiety disorder clinic. *American Psychiatric Nurses Association, 33rd Annual Conference*. Poster Presentation. October 2-5, New Orleans, LA.

Urella, D. (2020). Diabetes Burnout among young adults with Type1 Diabetes. Poster presented at the Virtual *ENRS Virtual Annual Scientific Sessions* March 26-27, 2020.

Cheryl Hersperger May 2019 recipient of the GSN Lillian Goodman Scholarship

Jennifer DiBenedetto May 2019 recipient of the GSN Carol Bova Scholarship

Melissa Dunn was awarded a 2019 Research Grant from the Iota Phi chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International for her dissertation study.

Laura Curtis was awarded the Nancy M. Valentine Excellence in Leadership Award, from the American Psychiatric Nurses Association New England Chapter presented at the *American Psychiatric Nurses Association, 33rd Annual Conference* in New Orleans, LA October 4, 2019.

Melissa Dunn, Tara Tehan and Alaina Valcourt were all awardees of a *student travel scholarship* by the International Family Nursing Association to attend the *14th International Family Nursing Association Conference* in Washington, D.C.

Zareen Barry May 2020 recipient of the GSN Lillian Goodman Scholarship Award

Saisha Matias May 2020 recipient of the GSN Carol Bova Scholarship Award

Heather Briere May 2020 recipient of the GSN Paulette Seymour Route Scholarship

HONORS and
AWARDS

Recent Publications

Cornine, A. (2020). Reducing nursing student anxiety in the clinical setting: An integrative review. *Nurs Edu Perspect*, 41(4), 229-234. doi: 10.1097/01.NEP.0000000000000633.

DiBenedetto, J. (2020). Supporting terminally ill patients with COVID-19: An ICU nurses' perspective. *Worcester Medicine*, 89(5), 13.

Godzik, C. (2020). Enhancing access to care: Tele-Psychiatry. *Worcester Medicine*, 88(1), 16.

Godzik, C. M. (2019). Gateless communication: A concept analysis. *Nursing Forum*, 1-6. doi: 10.1111/nuf.12388

Hersperger; C. L., Boucher, J., & Theroux, R. (2020). Paving the way: A grounded theory of discovery and decision making for individuals with the CDH1 Marker. *Oncology Nursing Forum*, 47(4), 446-456. doi: 10.1188/20.ONF.446-456

Matias, Saisha. (2020). Responding to COVID-19 with the essence of nursing. *Worcester Medicine*, 89(4), 13-14.

Tehan, T.M., Cornine, A.E., Amoah, R.K., Aung, T.Z., Willis, D.G., Grace, P.J....Perry, D.J., (2019). Realizing the focus of the discipline: Facilitating humanization in PhD education a student exemplar integrating nature and health. *Advances in Nursing Science*, 42(1), 69-80. doi:10.1097/ANS.0000000000000246



Jenn Berube joined a "Junior Peer Reviewer" program through the American Association of Critical Care Nurses for the American Journal of Critical Care in January 2020. The goal of this program is to help others develop skills in peer reviewing and critical appraisal of manuscripts submitted to a research journal. Jenn will have the opportunity to complete 4 reviews over a 2 year period and participate in teleconferences and journal clubs with experienced reviewers. Jenn has found this to be a positive experience and encourages others to consider participating.

Personal Milestones

Laura Curtis reported that Flynn, NEADS service dog for therapy for eleven years, retired in May at the age of thirteen. Bristol, new NEADS dog for therapy, joined the team in June. Both are adjusting wonderfully!

Julia (Sirois) Jackson got married August 2019!

Samantha (LaPlante) Turner got married October 2019!

Jenn Berube, welcomed her son Jared Michael into her family October 2019!

Kim Mantlow welcomed her daughter, Lyra May Isabelle into her family March 2020 !

Deborah Jean-Baptiste and **Alaina Valcourt** are newly engaged and planning weddings!

